

POINTED EXTRACTS FROM SERMONS

DELIVERED IN ST. LOUIS SUNDAY PULPITS.

"Christ will not break the hopes of even the feeblest. He will brush no one aside nor break his smallest faith."—The Reverend Doctor T. H. Hagerty.

"There must be reciprocity in all true friendship. A one-sided friendship is unknown, and is an absolute impossibility."—The Reverend Doctor John T. M. Johnston.

"To glorify the name of God is the chief end of man, and unless we do glorify God we shall never understand what it is to enjoy him."—The Reverend C. L. Chalfant.

"I would allow no child to graduate from the grammar school who could not write out accurately the Ten Commandments. It is more important than the Constitution of the United States, which they must acquire."—The Reverend Doctor James R. Winchester.

"Men sell their manhood and spend their substance in sinful living—all for a mess of pottage, all for the gratification of material desires."—The Reverend Howard T. Cree.

"The demand on the pulpit of today is for the eloquent tongue, rather than the plain message of truth. We worship Demosthenes instead of Jesus Christ."—The Reverend Jeremiah Cromer.

RALLY-DAY EXCURSION AT LEVEE MISSION.

Pupils of Charles A. Force Present Interesting Programme at Main and Market Streets.

The teachers and pupils of the Levee Mission at Main and Market streets observed Rally Day yesterday afternoon with a programme of songs and recitations by the primary scholars of the Sunday school.

Charles A. Force, the superintendent of the school, had drilled the children for the performance and they carried out their part with precision.

In addition to the programme there were addresses by C. R. Hall and J. A. Stanton, both upon subjects especially interesting to children. Several singers from the choir of the First Christian Church and three chorists provided the music, which was something extraordinary in that part of the city.

The room where the exercises were held was decorated with flags, bunting and other festive decorations, and the children were all dressed in their best.

Mr. Force hopes that yesterday's programme will tend to stimulate interest in already flourishing enterprise. The number of pupils at the Sunday school naturally decreased during the summer, but for the last three weeks has shown a marked improvement and is now nearly as large as it ever has been.

A sewing school for girls conducted by Miss Fitzmorris of the Second Baptist Church has been well attended each week. This and several other educational enterprises are contemplated, the superintendent hopes will make the mission more attractive than ever.

BIRTHRIGHT OF IMMORTALITY BARTERED BY MEN DAILY.

As Did Esau of Old, They Repent After Bargain Has Been Made, Says the Reverend H. T. Cree.

The Reverend Howard T. Cree preached last night in the Central Christian Church on the subject, "Bartering Birthrights." His text was Hebrews xii, 16. He said in part:

"Only shortsightedness or lack of self-control can explain the surrender of the greater for the lesser in the affairs of life. Short-sightedness seems to possess the minds of men when they give up a priceless heritage for what is scarcely worth the asking."

"By abandoning the higher and more



THE REVEREND HOWARD T. CREE, Pastor of the First Christian Church.

precious things of life for the lower and less valuable one is reminded of those ignorant savages on our own shores who in their ignorance and because of the merely physical in them, clamored for appeasement gave up their better privileges for trinkets and beads of colored cloth. Their unwise choice is pardonable, but the individual who makes such a bargain today is without excuse.

"Esau, bartering his birthright for a mess of pottage, is a splendid type of all those who are bartering the better privileges of life for the lesser and the low. All are born into the world with the divine birthright of manhood or womanhood, with the worship of God and the love of God in their hearts."

"Yet thousands are daily bartering their birthrights for the gratification of their carnal natures, and denying their sons and daughters the better privileges of life for the sake of a few moments of pleasure and a few dollars of money."

"But when it comes to spiritual possessions how careless and prodigal are many! Men and women who have been the legal tender in Satan's realm for virtue, purity and innocence, sin has sold us into surrendering the danger consequences of the glory and honor wherewith God has endowed us."

"One needs but to open his eyes to see multitudes who have bartered their birthrights, sold their manhood and spent their substance in sinful living—all for a mess of pottage, all for a gratification of the carnal desires. Upon the auction block men have sold their souls for gold and women their purity for silver. What mean the shame, the suicides, the prisons and sorrows of life but that mankind has sold his birthright, and has not realized, but prevented, God's purpose with him?"

"But an hour's time is sufficient in many cases to forever damn us and steal from us our most precious treasures. Many a young man in this city has looked back upon a single hour of dissipation with the devil only to find that in that hour he had lost the treasure of a lifetime. Oh, the anguish of heart that comes after the surrender is made! Would we could understand and be warned by it before we enter the transaction. Like the false idol upon the mountain side which precipitates to the rocks below, so a single act may lead to most disastrous consequences, the subtle are the influences which war upon our souls."

"A selfish burning one's face as he walks along the street may cause him to take aside and invariably change the cur-

CONSIDERS ABRAHAM'S LIFE WORTHY OF IMITATION.

DOCTOR JOHN T. M. JOHNSTON, Should Have Faithfulness, Devotion and Obedience.

The Reverend Doctor John T. M. Johnston preached yesterday morning in the Delmar Baptist Church. His text was "Abraham, my friend," he said in part: "Some four thousand years ago this patriarch, Abraham, was born in Ur of the Chaldees. Born at a time when the whole world was worshipping idols, his father, Terah, was an idolater, as was his King, Nimrod, so were all his friends and companions. His home was full of images of wood and stone."

"It was under such conditions, at a time when God had few friends in this world, perhaps not a single one, that he spoke to Abraham and called him to be his friend."

"Notice that God took the initiative in this friendship. Suppose you met on the street a poor, ragged boy. You would very likely pity him, and might say, 'That poor boy looks like a beggar, and he will grow up a bad man, for he has no one to show him how to live an honest life.'"

"If you wished that you might become friends, what would be the first thing to do? Would you not have to tell him?"

"God took the initiative. Abraham responded, and as a result Abraham's name is one of the most widely known and illustrious of all history. Jesus, Turks, Moors, Arabs, people who know nothing of the Bible, all have heard of Abraham."

"But Jesus, who held in reverence the name of Abraham, held in reverence the name of Jesus. He said to him: 'I am the Son of God.'"

"Again he is called the father of the faithful. He is called the father of the great numbers of men who are all in influence. The promise that in him all the nations should be blessed, is being fulfilled, and he is still being fulfilled, for his seed includes prominently Jesus Christ."

"But Abraham's most distinguished title was this: 'The friend of God.' The chronicler, Isaiah and James all refer to him as a friend of God."

"What a beautiful picture of Jehovah's friendship with him in the account of the plagues of Egypt. We can almost see Abraham sitting beside the door of his tent and Sarah within, long with her household duties. It is high noon, the flocks and herds are grazing around, while the sun is shining brightly on the fertile plain. Suddenly Abraham lifts his eyes and beholds three men standing before him. They are dressed in rich robes, and he knows that they are angels in visible form. Here Jehovah communed with Abraham."

"Abraham distinguished himself as his friend by perfect confidence in him. He believed in God, and he believed in God's promises. He believed in God's word, and he believed in God's power."

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day, in all its history, must meet the practical test. Even science is becoming practical. Says Professor James: 'All the world is thinking and acting in terms of behavior.' If all the world of men with the world about him, if all the thinking of his brain are intended only to work themselves out in behavior, how true must it be that all truth in the religious realm is meant to be translated into behavior."

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